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Net surfing

Net surfing paid off for new Duxbury police chief

By John Chaffee
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DUXBURY — Charles Mazzone had gone as far as he could in his 26-year career with the Maryland State Police.

The last upward step from his rank, lieutenant colonel, was to superintendent, a post usually filled by a governor's political appointee, so last summer Mazzone began surfing the Internet in search of job opportunities.

At the same time, Duxbury was looking for a new police chief.

"I wasn't actively seeking a job. I had no résumés out," Mazzone said.

Then he "accidentally stumbled on Duxbury's job announcement."

Enrico Cappucci, the town's police chief for the past 10 years, had retired from public service to take a private security job at Boston University.

Mazzone was one of 95 people who applied for the Duxbury job.

A 10-member search committee of town residents appointed by Town Manager Rocco Longo reduced the field to four finalists: acting Police Chief Donald Sjostedt, Mazzone and two other outsiders.

After two days of testing and interviews, Mazzone was ranked the best of the four by a three-member assessment team.

Although the Duxbury police union voted to favor an insider for

Personal profile

Charles Mazzone

Age: 45

Occupation: Police chief

Education: Bachelor's and master's degrees from Loyola College in Maryland; Maryland State Police Academy; FBI Academy.

Family: Wife, Betty; three adult children; one granddaughter.

Hobbies: Domestic travel; repairing antique clocks and watches.

the job and 520 residents signed a petition supporting Sjostedt, a 27-year Duxbury police veteran, Longo selected Mazzone.

"He was very impressive," Longo said. "He ranked far ahead of the other three finalists."

Selectmen declined to exercise their power to veto the choice, and Mazzone was sworn in as chief on Jan. 5.

He is being paid \$69,775 in the first year of a five-year contract.

So far, Mazzone, 45, has moved deliberately, making few changes in

the 30-member police department.

"The people here have been open and friendly and cooperative," he said. "I sense a real desire to do right by the citizens of Duxbury."

"I'm approaching this day by day, seeking as much information as I can, trying not to make wholesale or abrupt changes."

One change he has made is to become the department's spokesman, replacing Sjostedt, who had that responsibility under Cappucci.

"My desire is to ensure that the police department is speaking with one voice," he said. However, he also said that he has not "put a gag order on the department."

In applying for the job, Mazzone described himself as "a high-energy self-starter with a strong work ethic orientation."

Although the new chief has been on the job for less than two months, Longo said he already can sense that Mazzone's "new perspectives are going to help us all."

"He brings Duxbury a new level of professionalism," the town manager said.

Mazzone and his wife, Betty, are renting a house in Sandwich until they sell their house in Baltimore County and have a chance to take a longer, more deliberate look at housing possibilities in Duxbury, where they hope to live.

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New police chief found his job on the Internet

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Mazzone, a native of Somers Point, N.J., grew up in Pleasantville, the town immediately west of Atlantic City.

After graduating from high school there, he went to Baltimore to live with an older brother who was a Maryland state trooper.

After serving for two years as a state police cadet, he graduated first in his class from the state police academy, 12 years after his brother had done the same.

Over the next 24 years, as he rose in rank from trooper to lieutenant colonel, Mazzone had 17 assignments, including commander of the electronic services division, commander of the criminal investigation division, commander of the staff inspection unit and commander of the personnel management division.

In addition, on a special assignment, he served for four months as police chief in the town of Bel Air, Md.

Meanwhile, he earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Loyola College in Baltimore and graduated from the FBI Academy.

Mazzone said his main hobbies are domestic travel with his wife of 10 years and "the science of horology," which he described as "the study of the measurement of time."

He explained that he repairs and restores antique clocks and watches. He said he gets a thrill from "taking a mechanical device and bringing it back to life."

Antique clocks, he said, "have their own personalities, their own tones and voices."

His hobby reflects his outlook on life.

"Throughout my career, I always prided myself on being thorough and detailed in investigations or whatever I pursued," he said.



Kevin Jacobus photo

Charles Mazzone, the new police chief in Duxbury, "brings a new level of professionalism" to the department, a town official said.